

ENEMY SHELLS FIRE CITY OF BETHUNE

CHATTANOOGA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR \$100,000 RED CROSS QUOTA

BRITONS ATTACK NORTH MERVILLE

Strengthen Positions on Flanders Salient—Prisoners and Guns Captured.

CITY BETHUNE IN FLAMES

Important Rail Head North of Arras Fired by German Incendiary Shells.

(International News Service.) London, May 21.—A successful operation was carried out by the British on Monday evening in the sector of Merville, the war office announced today.

The Germans delivered a counter-attack, but it broke down.

(Merville is between seven and eight miles north of the British railroad position at Bethune, on the Flanders battle front. It lies upon the Lys river.)

The successful British enterprise was carried out by a survey battalion. Not only did the British improve and extend their lines, but captured thirty prisoners and six machine guns as well. Southeast of Arras the British raided German trenches, capturing some prisoners and a machine gun.

German artillery was active in the Albert and Hebuterne sectors during the night.

The German guns increased the intensity of their fire between the Scarpe river (east of Arras) and north of Lens.

The gas shelling reported yesterday north of Bethune was very heavy.

Cathedral in Ruins.

(International News Service.) London, May 21.—The French city of Bethune, just behind the Flanders battle front, has been set on fire by incendiary shells from German artillery and is in flames, said a news agency dispatch from the front today. The famous Bethune cathedral is in ruins.

Bethune is an important railroad point, in the Flanders salient, an eighteen miles north of Arras. It is one of the local objectives of the Germans, who have delivered numerous blows in an effort to break through at that point and seize the railroad. At the present time the German lines from the front three and one-half miles from Bethune.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

British

London, May 21.—Northwest of Merville, in the Flanders salient, the British improved their positions last night, the war office announced. Thirty prisoners and six machine guns were taken by the British in this operation.

A counter attack on the new positions launched this morning after a period of heavy shelling was crushed by the British artillery and machine guns.

The statement says: "Successful local operation was carried out by troops of the Surrey battalion yesterday evening northwest of Merville. A re-entrant in our line this sector was closed up and thirty prisoners and six machine guns were captured by us."

"Early this morning a hostile counter-attack against the new positions, delivered after a heavy bombardment, was broken up by our artillery and machine gun fire."

"We carried out a successful raid last night southeast of Arras and brought back a few prisoners and a machine gun from the enemy's trenches."

Gas Shelling Heavy.

"During the night the hostile artillery was active in the Albert sector about Hebuterne between the forest of Nieppe and Meter and more active than usual between the Scarpe river and Hill 70, north of Lens. The gas shelling reported to have taken place yesterday north of Bethune was heavy."

French

(Associated Press.) Paris, Monday, May 20.—The official statement from the war office tonight reads:

"There was no infantry activity. The artillery bombardment was violent at times south of the Aves and at several points in the region of Montdidier and Lassigny."

"Army of the east, May 19: There was reciprocal artillery firing in the region of Doiran. There was intermittent artillery and rifle fire on the Serbian front, where enemy patrols were repulsed before they were able to reach the wire entanglements. In the Cerna bend and in the region of Monastir the artillery and trench mortars were active. Near Monastir enemy patrols were driven back. In the Pogradec sector the enemy artillery fire increased. British aviators successfully bombed enemy establishments in the region of Demler Hassar."

German

Berlin (Via London), Tuesday, May 20.—"In the evening and toward midnight the firing in the Kemmel region increased considerably in intensity," says the official communication from general headquarters today. "Violent artillery duels developed early this morning. On the other battle fronts also fighting activity revived frequently."

"On the southern bank of the Aisne

THE RED CROSS HELPS—WILL YOU?



GERMAN OFFICER TELLS OF CAMOUFLAGED REPORTS

With the American Army in France, May 21.—According to information obtained from a captured German officer, the published monthly figures of German aerial losses are intended merely for the people at home and for neutrals and are not accepted by German aviators. A machine shot down within the German lines, of which even only parts are salvaged, is not counted as a loss.

SELF-PROCLAIMED HETMAN OF UKRAINIA IS WOUNDED

Gen. Skoropadski Shot Down During Street Fighting in Capital of Ukrainia.

Berne, May 21.—Gen. Skoropadski, who recently proclaimed himself hetman of the Ukrainians, has been gravely wounded in street fighting in Kiev, the capital of Ukrainia, according to information received from the front.

The hetman's palace was besieged and attacked several times by troops faithful to the old anti-German government.

A state of civil war in Ukrainia has grown out of the revolts against Germany. Gen. Von Eichen, commander of the Austro-German forces in Ukrainia, has received orders to put down the rebellion.

It is now believed that the German military authorities will assume complete power in Ukrainia and that the new government at Kiev will be dismissed.

Absolute domination would give Germany an opportunity to rush food and cattle to their own country from Russia and levy indemnities upon the poor peasants.

It is reported that Germany will soon declare the old paper money in Russia worthless and will substitute German currency, which will be the sole legal tender, thus forcing the peasants to turn in their Russian paper money.

WOMEN CAR CONDUCTORS TRIED OUT IN GULFPORT

(Associated Press.) Gulfport, Miss., May 21.—Five women conductors are now being broken in on the cars of the Gulfport and Mississippi Coast Traction company to take the place of men who, it is claimed, have been called to other duties.

Miss Martha Mitchell, one of the first women on the coast to take up the work, now has a regular run between Biloxi and Pass Christian. Others are expected to be placed on the cars from time to time.

LA FOLLETTE READY TO PRESENT DEFENSE

Absence of Wisconsin Senator From Public Life Has Caused Interest to Subside.

(International News Service.) Washington, May 21.—The defense of Senator Robert La Follette, charged with making a disloyal speech, was to be laid before the senate today.

After months of delay in starting the investigation of the alleged disloyal utterances of the Wisconsin senator, the privileges and elections committee of the senate today began the work of carrying out the order of the senate for a probe.

Senator La Follette's aide of the case was to be given to the public first. Gilbert M. Roe, of New York, an attorney representing Senator La Follette, was called to appear before the committee this afternoon. He was to present to the committee the defense of the Wisconsin senator.

Because of continued illness of his son, Senator La Follette was not expected to be present when the hearings began. In fact it is very doubtful whether he will appear before the committee during the entire investigation, inasmuch as he has steadfastly refused to leave the bedside of his son for several months now.

The absence of Senator La Follette from public life during the illness of his son, has to some extent caused the interest in the investigation to subside. After the alleged disloyal speech was made in St. Paul several months ago, there was a great demand from constituents for the removal of the Wisconsin senator. Many letters came to the members of the senate on the matter for weeks, but the protests recently have been few, inasmuch as Senator La Follette has not appeared on the scene.

Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio, chairman of the senate committee on privileges and elections, will conduct the investigation. It is his purpose to make the hearings public, unless other members of the committee object.

EX-GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS ESCAPED FROM CRIMEA

Had Been Living on His Country Estate But Left Before Germans Occupied Country.

(International News Service.) London, May 21.—Ex-Grand Duke Nicholas, former commander-in-chief of the Russian army, escaped from Crimea before the Germans occupied the country, said an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Moscow today.

(The former grand duke had been living upon his country estate in Crimea.)

FORM RUSSIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Associated Press.) Harbin, Friday, May 17.—A Russian-American chamber of commerce has been organized here with an initial subscription of 20,000 rubles from the Russian members. M. Oustrouloff, former Russian assistant minister of railways, has been elected president.

PHILADELPHIAN KILLED IN ENGLAND WHILE FLYING

(Associated Press.) London, May 21.—Second Lieut. Mortimer Crane, of the British flying corps, has been killed while flying in Great Britain and was buried Monday. He was a son of T. J. Crane, of Philadelphia. Young Crane joined the American army when the United States entered the war, but, wishing to get into active service, he obtained a discharge and joined the British army.

MAJ. RAUL LUFBERY HAS BEEN AVENGED

German Plane That Shot Down American Later Brought Down by French Aviator.

(By Newton C. Parker, International News Service Staff Correspondent.) With the American Army in France, May 20.—Tonight's official communique declares:

"Except for artillery activity on both sides in various sectors there is nothing to report."

Maj. Raul Lufbery has been avenged. That was made certain today when, at the American "aces" funeral, a major-general announced that the German plane that had shot down Lufbery had itself been brought down by a French aviator.

Germany's flying losses, as published in official statements, are not accepted as true by the German pilots, according to a German flying officer recently taken prisoner. The official German statements are intended solely for the civilian population and for neutrals, he declared.

When a German machine falls inside the German lines and some parts of it are salvaged the machine is not counted among the ones lost, he said.

WILSON GETS \$10,000 RED CROSS TURKEY

(International News Service.) Washington, May 21.—Representative Rufus Hardy, of Texas, and a committee of Texans today presented to President Wilson at the White House the \$10,000 prize turkey, the donation of Col. Jake Dawson, of Dawson, Tex., that has been touring the country for the Red Cross.

Help the Red Cross—Billy P.

Everybody bears a cross, so let your cross be red; 'ar better lend a stitch in time than decorate the dead; so slip from out your envelope one day's remuneration, and pick you out a cross red and plan a celebration. The weather fair to night and Wednesday, with slight change in temperature.

Negotiations were allowed to proceed for some time in the hope that more of the plotters would be rounded up finally, and the arrests are believed to have been ordered by British officials at this time because it became evident that an open outbreak was about to be precipitated. It was hinted today that a number of Sinn Fein sympathizers in the United States are under watch for further developments in the Irish plot.

This secret system of negotiations has been in progress for several months, it is understood. This tends to confirm the statement from London that the series of arrests several days

U. S. EXPOSED UPRISING PLOT

Government Partly Responsible for Arrest Irish Leaders by England.

EVIDENCE IS UNCOVERED

Showing Plan of Sinn Feiners and German Agents to Start Rebellion.

(Associated Press.) Washington, May 21.—Evidence of plotting between Germany and the Irish agents in this country for an uprising in Ireland has been uncovered by United States government agents and is partly responsible for the recent arrest of Irish leaders by the British government.

This evidence, which may be made public soon, is understood to show definitely that Irish leaders, mainly Sinn Fein sympathizers, in the United States have been in touch with German representatives who agreed to furnish money to finance a rebellion in Ireland and possibly to send arms and ammunition to Ireland by submarines or blockade runners.

There was even some discussion of the chances of sending German soldiers to take part in warfare on Irish soil.

Counted on Confusion. The uprising was set for about this time, when the Germans had planned to reach the channel ports after their great drive in France and it was believed England would be thrown into confusion by the German victories.

Ireland was to be freed entirely from British influence, if possible, and the Germans counted strongly on the Irish trouble to divert Great Britain's attention from the fighting in France and at the channel ports at the very time when it would be most necessary for the country to keep calm to prevent a German invasion.

Information concerning these plots have been gathered by several investigating agencies of the United States government and turned over to the state department, which forwarded it to representatives of the British government. In many cases the information provided leads by which British secret agents found evidence of plotting in Ireland.

Allowed to Proceed. Negotiations were allowed to proceed for some time in the hope that more of the plotters would be rounded up finally, and the arrests are believed to have been ordered by British officials at this time because it became evident that an open outbreak was about to be precipitated. It was hinted today that a number of Sinn Fein sympathizers in the United States are under watch for further developments in the Irish plot.

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CITY WINS FIGHT FOR LOWER GAS PRESSURE

COLLECTION OF BILL ENJOINED

J. E. Thomas Takes Case of Cutting Off His Water Into Court.

An injunction was issued in the chancery court Tuesday morning by Chancellor W. B. Garvin restraining the City Water company from cutting off the water of J. E. Thomas and from the collection of a debt of \$12.50 it is alleged by the water company that complainant Thomas owes them for water wasted by the reason of a bursted pipe. The style of the suit is J. E. Thomas against the City Water company and the injunction granted is asked to be made perpetual at its final hearing.

Complainant claims that he had a contract and agreement with the defendant water company to furnish water to his home, 411 Cowart street, at a minimum rate of 75 cents per month. If the amount of water exceeded this, then the difference was to be paid by the complainant. Some times he states that his water bill has run as high as \$1.15 in a single month and he has always willingly paid any amount the bill called for. Complainant states that he has had dealings with the water company for twelve years and has always paid them promptly whenever he received his bill. He states that at the present he is not indebted to the defendants a single penny with the possible exception of his water bill since March 21, which has not as yet been presented.

During the past winter the complainant claims that his pipes froze and as the result bursted and the water ran out freely. He first went to the street connector in an effort to cut off the flow, but found the connection there defective. He then telephoned the water company and he charged they refused to come out and told him to get a plumber. This he did and after some difficulty the plumber got the flow of the water stopped. The defendants then sent him a bill for \$12.50, which he refused to pay, and they cut his water off. He claims that the water company was wholly unwarranted.

Complainant charges that the defendant company is operating under a charter which makes it a quasi public corporation and a franchise from the city obligates and requires it to furnish any and all persons with water who may apply for same. Complainant charges that had the pipes been in good repair he could have immediately turned the water off. He asks the chancellor for an injunction restraining the defendants from cutting off his water and the collection of the alleged debt. The bill was filed through H. C. McCalla.

DUTCH SHIPS SEIZED AND TAKEN TO PRUSSIA

German's Waylay Steamer Bound From Stockholm to Rotterdam.

(Associated Press.) Amsterdam, Monday, May 20.—The Germans have seized and taken to Swinemunde, Prussia, the Dutch steamship Agnet, which was bound from Stockholm for Rotterdam.

According to the Handelsblad the German minister at Stockholm refused to supply the steamer with a safe conduct, as the German naval staff had decided not to issue any until the conclusion of the negotiations now in progress between the Dutch and German governments.

SANTIAGO, CHILE, TELLS OF SEVERE EARTHQUAKE

(Associated Press.) Santiago, Chile, May 21.—La Serena, capital of the province of Coquimbo, was shaken severely yesterday by earthquakes. A large number of buildings are reported to have been destroyed.

ago had no direct connection with plans to conscript the Irish. Some information was obtained from Germany now held in internment camps in this country. There is indication also that the seat of the German-Irish negotiations was transferred at times to other American republics.

United States Purpose.

It was made plain here today that the United States government's interest in the Irish plot is solely to prevent Germany by this method from attacking co-belligerents of the United States, and that this government is not seeking to meddle in the Irish situation except for this reason. As soon as all the persons suspected of participating in the conspiracy are arrested the evidence already gathered may be made public to show the necessity for running the plot at this time. Some doubt exists as to whether these disclosures will be made in London or Washington. Officials here today were inclined to believe that they would come from the British government.

Commissioner Herron Resorts to Sherlock Holmes Methods.

CITY TESTER TELLS TALE

Pressure Now Almost Down to Franchise Stipulation—No More Waste Gas.

Constant hammering has at last reduced the pressure in the gas mains of the Chattanooga Gas company to within one-half inch of the superior limit set by the company's franchise. However, it is not yet within its franchise, but will probably be hauled there soon. Such is the information that came out in the commissioners' meeting Tuesday afternoon at the city hall.

As has been many times published, the franchise limits of the gas company is a minimum of 1 1/2 inches to a maximum of 5 inches.

The burners and gas fixtures in the city of Chattanooga are designed for pressures within the above limits. If the pressure goes higher, these low-power burners merely waste gas without gaining in heat units.

In explaining the matter, one of the city hall officials referred to the argument of the Chattanooga Gas company that the pressure could be regulated by the valves in the gas burners. "This argument is perfectly true," said the official, "but the trouble is the housewives, and especially the negro servants, do not know enough to control the gas pressure by valves and thus obtain the greatest degree of heat."

When a servant hears a loud blowing, she thinks she is getting lots of heat," explained the official, "she doesn't know she is wasting gas."

Approximately of this point, the official exhibited the following extracts from "Standards of Gas Service," issued by the government printing office at Washington:

Page 51, Paragraph 1—"Ordinary gas burners for both stove and mantle lights are designed for use at a pressure of 2 to 4 inches. If higher pressures are used, too high a pressure replacement of gas outlets with those of smaller size is necessary."

Paragraph 2—"The ordinary gas consumer over a long period of time to regulate his appliances when the pressure goes above 6 or 8 inches."

Among gas regulations found in the book were those of New Jersey that gas pressure should be regulated to 1 1/2 inches nor more than 4 inches. The regulation of the borough of Manhattan is a minimum of 2 inches and a maximum of 6.

However, as stated above, the gas company is now within one-half an inch of its maximum limit in its franchise.

The method by which Commissioner Ed Herron enforced this reduction was a bit Sherlock Holmesy. Owing to constant gas complaints of over-charge, Mr. Herron suspected too high a pressure, and was assured that the pressure was too high.

Commissioner Sherlock.

On Feb. 23 the commissioner installed a gas pressure gauge in the office of T. F. Mahoney, sealer of weights and measures for the city and county. A continuous hourly record of gas pressure day and night was taken and filed in the sealer's office from that date to this. During that time the pressure ran as high as eight inches. When the pressure was high, the company pressed into its mains before that is known.

No warning was given the gas company of the presence of the pressure gauge until ten days ago. Then, in a somewhat dramatic scene, the fact that their pressure had been checked and filed was discovered to the gas company in the commissioner's office. It was like a bolt from a clear sky; and the gas pressure in the city mains since that exposition has, like the periwinkle in Kipling's poem, "shrunk only up a sewer." To drop poetry, it has come down to 1 1/2 inches, as shown by Tuesday morning's reading.

The Big Push. Human curiosity searches the rational in all things, and Commissioner T. C. Betterton, in his report before the commissioners' meeting last Tuesday, unwisely gave a possible explanation why the Chattanooga Gas company clings so leech-like to super-franchise pressures. The company sells its gas to the public at \$1.15 per 1,000 cubic feet. The company obtains its gas from the Chattanooga Coke and Gas Products company for 12 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. Ergo, the more thousands of feet the company can sell through the burners the merrier, and Hoover begs and McAdoo shortens the coal trains.

In a newspaper article, Manager De Freese, of the gas company, explained that high pressure was necessary to reach certain low portions of the city. In a personal interview he stated that objection to high pressure had never been heard of before in all his gas knowledge; that the question had never come up before any gas convention, and that the whole question was entirely pointless and beside the matter. Nevertheless, under threats of annulling the gas contract for breach of franchise by the city officials, as made and published last Tuesday—the pressure is going down.

RIMASZOMBAT HAS BEEN BURNING SINCE TUESDAY

(International News Service.) Geneva, May 21.—A delayed dispatch from Vienna, quoting the newspaper Fremdenblatt, said that the town of Rimaszombat had been burning since last Tuesday.